



McGREGOR W. SCOTT

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of California*

NEWS RELEASE

Sacramento
501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel 916/554-2700
TTY 916/554-2877

Fresno
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel (559) 497-4000
TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 27, 2007

Contact: Mary Wenger
(916) 554-2730
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS TO ATF DURING INVESTIGATION OF MARCH 15, 2007 UNION PACIFIC TRESTLE FIRE

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that JOSE EDUARDO MORAN-MARQUES, 31, of El Salvador, plead guilty today to one count of making false statements to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives during its investigation of the March 15, 2007 Union Pacific trestle fire in the Arden area of Sacramento.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney R. Steven Lapham.

According to the plea agreement, on May 15, 2007, the defendant was interviewed by an ATF special agent as to his whereabouts on the day of the fire. During the interview, MORAN-MARQUES falsely stated that his name was "Carlos Morales" and then admitted his first name was "Jose" and only after further interviewing, did he provide his true and accurate name.

In court today, by agreement of the parties, immediately after the change of plea, United States District Court Judge Edward J. Garcia sentenced the defendant to credit for time served and ordered him to be deported to his home country of El Salvador. MORAN-MARQUES will be taken into custody by the Bureau of Immigration, Customs and Enforcement (ICE) for deportation purposes.

Stated United States Attorney Scott, “Investigators exhausted all leads pointing to MORAN-MARQUES as the arsonist behind the March 2007 trestle fire. At the end of the day, however, there was insufficient evidence to charge the defendant with arson. As such, it was our considered judgment to allow for execution of the defendant’s pre-existing deportation order to El Salvador. The trestle fire investigation remains open.”

###